

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 01560 010946Z

ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACI IMMEDIATE 1233

S E C R E T JIDDA 1560

NODISCHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: MARR, PBOR, MASS, ET, SO
SUBJECT: U.S. POLICY DECISIONS ON HORN OF AFRICA

REF: (A) STATE 049635, (B) STATE 051495

1. FOREIGN MINISTER HAS BEEN ON VACATION FOR LAST TWO WEEKS ALTHOUGH HE RETURNED BRIEFLY TO RIYADH ON FEB. 27. AMBASSADOR WAS NOT ABLE TO SEE HIM THAT DAY, BUT USLO OFFICER PASSED TEXT OF POINTS A.B, NAD C OF REFTEL A TO FOREIGN MINISTER'S PROVATE SECRETARY ON FEB. 27. DCM FOLLOWED UP ON FEB. 28 BY RAISING MATTER WITH FOREIGN MINISTER UNDERSECRETARY MANSOURI IN JIDDA.

2. MANSOURI REPEATED SAUDI VIEW THAT SOMETHING MORE IS NEEDED TO RPOVIDE MORE FACE-SAVING FOR BARRE. OTHERWISE, HE MIGHT NOT SURVIVE AND WOULD LIKELY BE REPLACED BY PRO-SOVIET ELEMENTS. HE SAID THAT ALL PARTIES, INCLUDING BARRE, AGREED THAT HE SHOULD WITHDRAW HIS ARMED FORCES FROM THE OGADEN. THE PROBLEM WAS NOW HE COULD DO IT AND STAY IN POWER. SAUDI PROPOSAL CONSISTED OF A CEASE-FIRE IN PLACE WITH REPLACEMENT OF SOMALI TROOPS WITH UN FORCES FOLLOWED BY A PLEBISCITE. PLEBISCITE WOULD NOT NECESSARILY OFFER OPTION OF ANNEXATION TO SOMALIA BUT COULD OFFER SOME DEGREE OF AUTONOMY FOR OGADEN AND GUARANTEE AGAINST

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REPRISALS DIRECTED AT POPULATION OF OGADEN.

3. DCM POINTED OUT THAT ETHIOPIANS MIGHT NOT ACCEPT SUCH A PROPOSAL SINCE THEY CONSIDERED OGADEN TO BE THEIR SOVEREIGN TERRITORY AND WERE NOW IN STRONG POSITION ON THE GROUND.

4. MANSOURI THEN ASKED WHAT USG WOULD DO IN EVENT SOMALIA

IS INVADED. AND DCM READ ORALLY THE REPLY CONTAINED PARA 4-D
REFTEL A. MANSOURI SHOWED SOME INTEREST, BUT COMMENTED
THAT SAUDI CAPABILITY TO TRANSFER MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO
SOMALIA WAS VERY LIMITED SO USG OFFER TO OFFSET SOVIET
TREATS OR ACTIONS WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE ENOUGH TO ALTER
THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND.

5. 5. DCM ALSO REMINDED MANSOURI THAT WE WERE AWAITING A
RESPONSE TO OUR APPROACH CONCERNING ALLEGED PRESENCE OF U.S.
ORIGIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN SOMALIA WHICH HAD BEEN PRE-
VIOUSLY SOLD TO SAUDI ARABIA. MANSOURI PROMISED THAT WE
WOULD RECEIVE A REPLY, PERHAPS THROUGH SAUDI AMBASSADOR
TO WASHINGTON.

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